NO EXCITEMENT

THIS Is One of I the Famous Bill Titus Stories -an Interesting Yarn to the Last

APT. BILL TITUS, sitting in dred and forty dollars in his pockets, eight dollars and forty cents on the table before him, and a surging sorrow

There are places on the North American continent where the possession of five aces would be regarded as repre-hensible, but in Texas such a hand is honorable, although extremely excep-tional. In Texas the poker deck always contains the joker, which counts, at contains the joker, which counts, at the player's option, as an ace or any needed part of a flush or straight. Whence came this custom no one seems to know. It is not true, however, as has been reported, that the matter is provided for in the state constitution or the revised statutes. Capt. Bill had just received the aces pat, and joy would have filled his breast, instead of sorrow, had conditions been reversed so that he had three hundred and forty dollars on the table and eight dollars and forty cents in his pocket, because Dr. Bannister had opened the pot for two

three hundred and forty dollars on the table and eight dollars and forty cents in his pocket, because Dr. Bannister had opened the pot for two dollars, and Warland, sitting next, had "tilted it a little to keep the pikers out." Obviously there were opportunities in this particular hand, but they were opportunities, alas! in which he could not hope to participate. For there is another Texas custom that fettered him. In the Lone Star state the rule is invariably "table stakes," and he was limited, for that hand, to the eight-forty.

Mournfully, when it came his turn, he pushed in his little pile. He wan too overcome to lighten the occasion with persifiage. "I kain't do nothin' but shoot my wad," he remarked.

Or. Bannister studied his own hand, measured a stack of chips up to Bill's level and added five dollars. "We might's well keep this from deterioratin' into a children's game," he announced. Two men dropped out. Warland reraised the doctor, and Bill, able werely to wait for a "sight in the pot," and assured that all he could possibly win was eight dollars and forty cents aplece from the three players who had remained, relapsed into uinterested gloom.

Dr. Bannister chuckled as he raised

"Far be it from me to object if the session is broken up," acquiesced Warland, rattling his winnings. "But why to bed? It isn't tomorrow yet."

"I have resolved a resolution," declared Bill. "Those five aces pat—jumpin' greasers, but I never see 'empat before in all my more than thirty years of escriest practice!—clinched it. Luck's been breakin' rotten with me lately. Nobody's payin' any principal, and most of 'em want to stand off the interest. I've been gently notified of two passed dividends. I haven't sold an acre in ten days. I kain't win at draw. I'm bored. I'm ongweed. I have decided to go away from here."

"Whither?" asked the Chief of Police mildly, proceeding to cash up the

two yeared dividends I. haven't sold and the second of the

"Boys will be boys," remarked Ansell, who was at least ten years younger than Bill and had twice as much hair.

"And so good night," grinned Bill,

Captain Bill Titus, in his go-to-the-city clothes, was at the railroad station the next morning at about the time the San Antonio-bound train-cailed "fiyer" along the line only by any of waggish humor-was due, the station agent informed him cheering hopers only forty minutes late.

It was a fresh-shaven, twinkling-borts only forty minutes late.

It was a fresh-shaven, twinkling-weigh and a map fresh that the train of the same than the first man and a napkin beamings.

It was a fresh-shaven, twinkling-weigh and a napkin perfect only forty minutes late.

It was a fresh-shaven, twinkling-weigh and a map fresh that the train of the station agent informed him theering have the station agent informed with the same and a napkin beamings.

It was a fresh-shaven, twinkling-weight and twenty-dive amonth of the strolled up and down the platform. William T. Titus days as cowpuncher, deputy sheriff, ranger and all-around adventurer were years behind him. If he still affected top boots, a belt, no waisteoat, and an unusually wide-trimmed, high-crowned hat it was be-trimmed, high-crowned hat it was be-trimme



midst?"

"I'll never forget 'em!" replied Bill sternly. "And—here's how, Reese!—I shall not come back for a week unless I was up there ahead." Bill went on I was up there ahead." Bill went on I ind excitement has departed from San 'Ntonio as bad as it has from this dead burg."

"Boys will be boys," remarked Angretty sure I got a chance to put that twenty thousand dollars of yours out the cloth in 'ront of him and present-ed him with a bill of fare.

"I forgot my glasses," he remarked while there's nothin' else to do. I'm pretty sure I got a chance to put that twenty thousand dollars of yours out the cloth in 'ront of him and present-ed him with a bill of fare.

"How will be boys," remarked Angretty sure I got a chance to put that twenty thousand dollars of yours out the cloth in 'ront of him and present-fasted early. A duchess in a white fasted early. A duchess in a white apron brushed imaginary crumbs from the cloth in 'ront of him and present-fasted early. A duchess in a white fasted early. A duchess in a white apron brushed imaginary crumbs from the cloth in 'ront of him and present-fasted early. A duchess in a white fasted early. A duchess in a white fasted early. A duchess in a white apron brushed imaginary crumbs from the cloth in 'ront of him and present-fasted early. A duchess in a white fasted early. anyway. Might's well talk it over now while there's nothin' else to do. I'm pretty sure I got a chance to put that twenty thousand dollars of yours out at eight per cent interest. Judge Bates andbraisedveal," said and a laif per cent interest. Judge Bates is lookin' up the title to the security. I 'spose you'd like to have me get that it has been. When your pa was livin he usually kept his money pretty busy. Since he's gone you ain't got but four and a half per cent for it in the bank, The lady did not smile. "Straight the security is a new gown. Maria will do over something for me."

"And Maria has asked for raise?"

"Yes, she wants two hundre frames more."

"It is frightful!"

"I agree with you. But remen that per cent for it in the bank, when you have the serve in the lone serve."

at this carrival like I was a chee-lid for both anyway."

"Not have anyway."

"They all talked at once."

"They al

gasping yell. Bill Titus' experience had taught him that it is never well to wait to learn what sort of weapon a man is about to draw; his knotted fist, swung forward and upward with habind a broad shoulfist, swung forward and upward with all the strength behind a broad shoulder, struck the showman just above the big watch charm that glistened in the middle of his rotund vest. "Poleece!" he yelled, as he went down. By volunteering to charter an automobile for the ride to the police station Bill saved himself any humiliating exhibition in a patrol wagon. The efficient policeman who wagon. The efficient policeman who had appeared promptly at the showman's cry took them both in without prejudice. The chief himself was at police headquarters, where the officer

Bill slowly turned his eyes full upon eumnambient atmosphere."

Bill slowly turned his eyes to be summarized and stared him in the face.

"You threatenin' me?" demanded Tommy and stared him in the face. "Why, no, not unless volunteerin' to wreck your tent and beat you up is threatenin."
"See here!" shouted the man. "You can't talk to me like that! I—" He to wreck your tent and beat you up is threatenin."

"See here!" shouted the man. "You can't talk to me like that! I—" He interrupted himself to reach for something, probably not a pistol or a knife, more than likely a blackjack, and collapsed on the ground with a gasping yell. Bill Titus' experience had taught him that it is never wall the said. In an aside.

"Say, Nellie," he said, in an aside.
"I got an errand to do that I plumb around and all? I ought to go do it. Say, maybe I kin see you later. You might be in the post office at 7 o'clock, and I'll try to be there. Huh? What say?"

Bill turned from the window. "Did

Bill turned from the window. "Did

I hear you-all say you had to go somewhere?" he asked, pleasantly, "That's all right. I'll take care of Nellie, and mighty nice of you

his wife for the second time:

"Did you say two thousand francs."

"I said two thousand francs," answered Eliane. "The buffet supper and the flowers we must have, to start with. Then we need two mend to serve, a butler and two maids for the cloakrooms. Also music. Figure it up yourself. I don't include a new gown. Maria will do over something for me."

"Yes, she wants two hundred francs more."

"It is frightful!"

"I is frightful!"

"In the second time:

"Did you say two thousand be ankrupt.

The psychological effect of a smart entertainment might induce this capitalist, a bounder, with very limited intelligence to come to his assistance. So Eliane objected no longer and made preparations for the reception. Passing to the buffet, Mme. Sigoules ure it up yourself. I don't include a new gown. Maria will do over something for me."

"Yery chic," Sigoules answered. "You can see that Combeaufontaine is in luck. He makes money easily. Did you notice his wife's necklace?"

"Yes, she wants two hundred francs more."

"It is frightful!"

"It is something to make would be bankrupt.

"It is frightful!"

francs more."

"It is frightful!"

"I agree with you. But remember that Maria is the lone servant in a house which ought to have three servants."

"I can't pay three servants."

"Oh! I have noticed it before. It is wonderful. It is something to make any woman rave over. Every time I see it I am eaten up with envy."

"Come! come!" said Sigoules, in a conciliatory tone. "I will buy you one like it some day."

"Oh! I have noticed it before. It is been stricken by a strange lever. She raised her voice when she talked. Her conversation was jirky. She began to joke with Etienne Liffre about his attention to Mme, Etalans, some of her remarks bordering on impertinence and discourtesy.

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But already the young wife had been stricken by a strange fever. She raised her voice when she talked.





"GETTING OFF OF THE FIRST TEE A CONGRESSMAN was talking at a dinner about a profiteer.

game till two wks. ago when one of the boys told me I was sticking out my tongue when I swang and a person couldn't of never fell into a quaint habit like that if they had of played winter and summer both, and it don't seem fair that a man like I that has got a wife and kiddies to support should ought to be asked to compete on even turns with some old roue that don't take his golf shoes off from one yrs. end to another exponents.

They all talked at once.

"Here are three pearls!"

"Here are five!"

"I have the clasp!"

Eliane burst into a gale of laughter.
These people groping at her feet gave her a curious sensation of triumph. She became ironical, almost contemptuous.

"Don't put yourselves to so much trouble. They are only imitation."

She crushed one of them under her heel. The guests looked at her in amazement.

Then Eliane, guessing their thoughts broke out defiantly:

"The rules of lip golf and I have named lip golf and I have tried it out with grand success and man no physical exercise, why it keeps their mind on golf and don't allow them to forget it dureing the off season and when they start playing again in the spring they have at lease got the language at their tongues and don't half to waste 7 or 8 wks. mastering the verbage all over again and it can be played in the house any time of day or night and in all kinds of weather.

Then Eliane, guessing their thoughts broke out defiantly:

"Excuse me fur speakin' to that where I work."

The rules of lip golf is the following rules: No matter what remarks the broke out defiantly:

Then Eliane, guessing their thoughts broke out defiantly:

"What of it? When one isn't prosperous he must pretend to be. But since five minutes ago I have had no more need of all this trumpery. Since their Plerre and I have ceased to be dependent on anybody."

The Combeaufontaines took refuge in the provinces. It was fortunate they did.

For nobody could pardon Eliane for

the world serious and I come down with Brooklyn.

* * * *

The net results was that I didn't realy start to begin to commence my golf till the central part of Oct. and couldn't make out what alled my

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The net results was that I didn't realy start to begin to commence my golf till the central part of Oct. and couldn't make out what alled my brother, and if your game is anywheres near like mine why at lease you can't do it no harm.

RING W. LARDNER RING W. LARDNER. Long's Island, Dec. 3.

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A Little Learning. DRESIDENT SILLS of Bowdoin said in a recent address:

"Popular instruction, lectures to the people and so forth-all these things are very well, provided they are thorough. Too much popular in struction is about as effective as Prof. Smatter's.

"'My goodness," a servant girl said to her mistress, 'life don't seem the same at all since I started going to thing new every night.'
"'Indeed!' said the mistress. what did you learn last night, Mag-

'Last night,' said the servant, ' learned how we was all descended from old Doc Darwin."

Just Weight.

"The wretch," he said, "not only

ness, it being much heavier than the tons of coal of today."

The Boilermaker.

THE late James O'Neill, veteran

Pea Soup Skies. TRVING BUSH, the owner of the fa-

mous Bush terminal in New York. ing he is to put up in London. they did.

For nobody could pardon Eliane for having shown such scandalous delight at being able to escape from the Husband-I missed the first two but ever a sky that needed a good scraping it certainly is London's."